June 1991

United Nations
International Drug Control Programme
P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

information letter

Council Elects Commission Members

Twenty States have been elected or reelected, in May 1991, by the Economic and Social Council as Members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1992.

Elected by acclamation at the Council's first regular session of 1991 were: Bolivia, Gabon, India, Lesotho, Madagascar, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

By secret ballot, the Council elected eight other members of the Commission (from Western European and other States): Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey and United States of America.

INCB Members Elected

By secret ballot, the Economic and Social Council elected, on 30 May 1991, seven members of the International Narcotics Control Board for a five-year term beginning on 1 March 1992.

Five of them were elected from among candidates nominated by United Nations Member States and by non-Member States that are Parties to drug control treaties: Herbert S. Okun (United States), Gottfried Machata (Austria), Bunsom Martin (Thailand), Manuel Quijano Narezo (Mexico) and Sahibzada Raoof Ali Khan (Pakistan).

Abdol-Hamid Ghodse (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Sirad Atmodjo (Indonesia) were elected from among candidates nominated by the World Health Organization.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs Reviews Policy-Making Functions

Strongly condemning acts of delinquency against those engaged in drug control activities, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted a Declaration conveying its profound condolences to the Government of Colombia and to the family of Enrique Low Murtra, former Colombian Justice Minister, assassinated on 30 April in Bogotá.

The action was taken on 9 May 1991 as the Commission concluded its eight-day thirty-fourth session which addressed, among other things, ways and means of improving its functioning as a policy-making body.

On 2 May 1991, the Commission observed a minute of silence in memory of the victim who had addressed the Commission only four years earlier.

In his opening statement, Giorgio Giacomelli, UNDCP Executive Director, noted that the thirty-fourth session was being held at a turning point in the history of United Nations activities in drug abuse control, as the three existing drug control units were being restructured and integrated into a single programme.

The full integration of treaty implementation, policy implementation and research, and operational activities should greatly increase the effectiveness of those activities and should release a potential for further progress.

He stated that selection of activities should also be guided by a realistic assessment of the limited resources of UNDCP and by a constant dialogue with Governments and regional and international organizations.

The Commission recommended the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of 10 draft resolutions, including one calling for annual meetings of the Commission and another recommending the enlargement of its membership. In addition, the Commission adopted seven resolutions and four decisions.

Draft Resolutions

Under a draft resolution on its terms of reference, the Commission would assume additional functions including giving policy guidance to the new UNDCP and monitoring its activities.

By a draft resolution on its functioning, the Commission would hold annual sessions for a period not exceeding eight working days. Such annual sessions would be held between the third calendar week of March and the third calendar week of April.

According to the draft resolution on the enlargement of the Commission, the Council would increase the number of the Commission's members from 40 to 50, the ten new seats being distributed as follows: two for the Western European and Others Group; one for the Eastern European Group; two each for the African Group, the Asian Group, the Latin

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The Executive Director addressed the Economic and Social Council on 17 June 1991, reporting on the outcome of the most recent session of the CND, seeking endorsement of new administrative arrangements between UNDCP and the INCB, briefing on the status of operational activities and outlining progress on restructuring to form UNDCP.

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UNDCP Staff Member Dies in Plane Crash

A Senior Field Adviser of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme died in a plane accident on 26 May 1991 when travelling from his duty station in Bangkok for consultations in Vienna.

A national of the United Kingdom, Donald McIntosh had joined the Secretariat in September 1988 on secondment from the Home Office. He first served as Field Adviser in Pakistan and since December 1990 was stationed in Bangkok.

The UNDCP Executive Director announced the tragic loss with profound sorrow. The UNDCP extends its most heartfelt condolences to the afflicted family.

Mr. McIntosh was responsible for UNDCP's projects of assistance to governments in the area where he was posted, and helped to draw up new projects. UNDCP assistance to Thailand mainly consists of rural development projects whereby farmers are helped to develop alternative means of income instead of illicit opium poppy cultivation. Such projects are part of a specially designed regional development package.

Mr. McIntosh was 43. The funeral took place on 4 June in the Christ Church of Bangkok in the presence of officials from the Thai Government, representatives of United Nations agencies and entities, members of the Bangkok international community, colleagues and friends. The UNDCP was represented by Christopher Ronald, Senior Programme Officer.

Donald McIntosh
(1948-1991)

Colombia Signs Agreement with UNDCP

Jaime Giraldo-Angel (centre), Justice Minister of Colombia, and Giorgio Giacomelli (right), UNDCP Executive Director, signed an agreement on 9 May 1991 for a three-year US$ 4 million drug abuse prevention project to help Colombian youth. The project is part of a new $ 38 million package of assistance to Colombia, which includes activities in the fields of drug abuse prevention and treatment, rural development and coca crop substitution, law enforcement and assistance to the judiciary. Italy contributed $ 20 million for the new drug control project in Colombia.

INCB Elects Officers for 1991-1992

At its forty-ninth session held from 27 May to 7 June 1991 at Vienna, the International Narcotics Control Board elected its Bureau for 1991: Oskar Schroeder, President; Maruthi V.N. Rao, First Vice-President; Oguz Kayaalp, Second Vice-President and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Estimates; Cai Zhi-Ji, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Estimates; and Huáscar Cajias Kauffmann, Rapporteur.

The Board observed a minute of silence in memory of former Board member Diego Garcés-Giraldo, who had passed away in March 1991, and of Donald McIntosh, UNDCP Senior Field Adviser, who had died in an airplane crash in Thailand.

Addressing the Board for the first time, the UNDCP Executive Director informed the Board of the ongoing integration process, noting that the objective of the process was to ensure coherence of action within the Programme and to avoid duplication.

Fully cognizant of the importance of the technical independence of the Board, he assured the Board that the integration process would not interfere with its functional prerogatives, and considered it a fundamental obligation of UNDCP to provide the Board with all the support and assistance it required.

In accordance with its mandate, the Board reviewed the legal manufacture of, trade in and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and examined trends in the illicit drug traffic as well as cases of attempted diversion into illicit channels. The global demand for and supply of opiates for medical needs was also considered.

The Board devoted particular attention to secretariat work in developing a data base to be used in monitoring implementation of precursor control measures arising under the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, as well as to national, regional and international developments in the field of precursor control.

Commission Examines its Future Role ...

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American and Caribbean Group; and one rotated among the African Group, the Asian Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

Another draft resolution related to the control of chemicals used in the production of cocaine, heroin and other illicit drugs.

Two draft resolutions related to the Near and Middle East including one on drug law enforcement countermeasures in the context of socio-economic and cultural development and a second one whereby the Council would request the Secretary-General to convene a meeting at the ministerial level to enhance regional cooperation.

Another draft resolution deals with the demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs.

The Council was asked to adopt a draft resolution on "Prevention of diversion from international trade into illicit channels of psychotropic substances".

Another draft resolution would endorse the Commission's decision to revise the annual reports questionnaire as part of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System.

Finally, a comprehensive draft resolution on demand reduction, containing 20 operative paragraphs, has been submitted to the Council for adoption.

Resolutions

The Commission adopted seven resolutions, as follows:

In a resolution on international and regional coordination, the Commission requested the UNDCP Executive Director, in his capacity as coordinator for all United Nations drug control activities, to examine the means to ensure coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of drug control activities across the United Nations system.

As regards priority themes for the further development of activities by the UNDCP, the Commission adopted a resolution requesting the UNDCP Executive Director, in consultation with governments, to develop proposals for a five-year plan to implement the Global Programme of Action.

The text sets out seven priority themes for implementing the Programme, including prevention and reduction of drug abuse; treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts; control of production and supply; suppression of illicit trafficking; measures to be taken against the effects of money laundering; strengthening of judicial and legal systems; and measures to be taken against the diversion of arms and explosives and illicit traffic by vessels, aircraft and vehicles.

The Global Programme was adopted by the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly on international cooperation against narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances held in February 1990.

In a resolution on UNDCP, the Commission urged all governments to provide to the Programme the fullest possible support, in particular financial and political, to enable it to fulfil the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action by increasing general purpose extrabudgetary contributions. This would facilitate the expansion and strengthening of technical cooperation with developing countries.

Another resolution focused on "Coordination of international and regional drug law enforcement training and the use and further development of the United Nations drug law enforcement training manual".

Other resolutions related to the "Diversion of chemicals used in the illicit production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" and "Establishment of national drug coordinating units".

The seventh resolution invited the Executive Director to analyse the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs and to transmit to the Commission his views on possible follow-up.

The United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse (1991-2000) is to be formally launched on 26 June 1991 on the occasion of the Fourth International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Officers

To facilitate its work, the Commission established a Committee of the Whole which held nine meetings. It also adopted the report of the Committee which recommends action on 18 draft resolutions adopted by the Commission's subsidiary bodies - the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, which held its twenty-seventh session at Vienna, from 25 to 26 April; and by the regional meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEAs) held during 1990.

Elected officers were Robbert J. Samsom (Netherlands), Chairman; Eugenio Anguiano (Mexico), Dato' Zainol Mahmood (Malaysia), Mamadou Lamine Fofana (Senegal), Vice-Chairmen; and István Bayer (Hungary), Rapporteur. Ambassador Eugenio Anguiano served as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

Attendance

The thirty-fourth session was attended by representatives of 39 States Members of the Commission and by observers from 65 other States, eight specialized agencies, 10 intergovernmental bodies and 34 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Several delegations were headed by high-level officials, including cabinet ministers.

In his closing remarks, the Executive Director said there was a new atmosphere of cooperation and positive thinking in matters of drug abuse control. The Commission had produced a number of constructive proposals for improving its effectiveness and efficiency, which would be put to the test at its next session, when it meets for the first time with 50 members. He also confirmed the independence of the INCB and promised to provide more support and resources to the Board.

The report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session has been submitted to the Council as document E/1991/24.

READEX FICHE

Secretary-General's Message on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 JUNE 1991

This year's observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking occurs at a time of growing concern on the part of the international community about the relentless increase in production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs, which undermines the very fabric of society in many countries around the world. The Day underscores the recognition by Governments everywhere that the phenomenon of drug abuse respects no national boundary, and that unflagging efforts are required at the international level to combat the devastation which this scourge inflicts on individuals and communities in both developing and developed countries.

Over the past year, the international community has renewed its commitment to join forces and to respond energetically, with coordinated and coherent action, to this global threat. The United Nations General Assembly declared last autumn that the last decade of the twentieth century would be known as the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse (1991-2000). It also called for the creation of a United Nations Drug Control Programme which would integrate fully the structures and functions of three existing drug abuse control units located in Vienna. This new Programme, which came into existence in March of this year, will enable the United Nations to provide effective leadership and to play a major role in the international drug control effort.

1991 - 2000
United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse

Inter-agency Meeting Held in Vienna

Immediately following the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, an inter-agency meeting on coordination in matters of international drug abuse control was held at Vienna on 10 May 1991.

Participating were representatives of 12 agencies or entitites in the United Nations system.

The meeting was chaired by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. In his opening statement, he recalled that the Administrative Committee on Coordination had decided that henceforth the UNDCP would participate in the work of ACC. He underlined the UNDCP's intention to go beyond theoretical approaches onto practical and pragmatic implementation.

Participants agreed on the need for improved coordination to permit increased effectiveness in discharging the mandates entrusted to the United Nations in drug abuse control.

Guidelines for the preparation of the Secretary-General's 1991 Report on international cooperation in drug abuse control were reviewed. Participants noted the need for careful planning of activities to publicize the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, as a time frame for the implementation of the objectives set in the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly.

The report of the inter-agency meeting will appear as document ACC/1991/PG/8.

Executive Director Visits China

Chinese Premier Li Peng welcoming UNDCP Executive Director Giorgio Giacomelli in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. The Executive Director was on official mission in May 1991 to sign a tripartite cooperation agreement on matters of drug control between China, Myanmar and UNDCP designed to reduce trafficking in narcotic drugs and chemicals used in the refining of heroin across the China-Myanmar border; to eliminate opium poppy cultivation in areas adjacent to the border between the two countries and to reduce demand for illicit narcotic drugs.

UNDCP Mission Consults with EEC, Belgian Officials

A UNDCP mission, headed by its Executive Director, visited Brussels in June 1991 for talks with officials of the European Economic Community and the Belgian Government.

Discussions with the EEC Commissioners focused on ways and means of improving information exchange and intensifying cooperation.

It was deemed appropriate to revitalize a 1987 liaison agreement between the EEC and UNFDAC which encouraged the exchange of information, regional consultations and joint ventures. Among the UNDCP major donors, the EEC finances a number of projects in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa.

The UNDCP mission also held talks with with Belgian Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, the Minister of Cooperation for Development, and the Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium. Issues of mutual interest were reviewed.

The Minister of Justice outlined a series of measures taken by his country to facilitate the ratification of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, as well as the priority given by the Government to the ratification by the Belgian Parliament of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The Government's interest in providing legal assistance to African States was also underscored.

Belgium has recently made a special purpose contribution for a crop substitution project in Colombia.

UN/OAS Meeting Reviews Cooperation

A meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States took place in New York on 15 to 17 May 1991.

The meeting was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Participants included high-level officials from United Nations department and programmes, including several Under-Secretaries-General, as well as from a number of specialized agencies and from various entities affiliated with the Organization of American States.

Particular attention was given to the intensification of cooperation in the area of drug abuse control. A task force on international drug control presented a series of recommendations, including the exchange of databases as well as of officals for training on different methodologies in combatting drug abuse and illicit traffic.

The UNDCP was represented by Francisco Ramos-Galino, Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs.

Executive Director on Official Mission to UK

On 5 and 6 June 1991, the Executive Director undertook an official visit to the United Kingdom at the invitation of the British Government. He held discussions with the Home Secretary, the Minister for Overseas Development; the Minister of State of the Home Office and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries from the Department of Health and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Discussions centred around the future collaboration between the United Kingdom and UNDCP. The Executive Director also addressed the All Party Parliamentary Drug Misuse Group.

The UNDCP Executive Director had delivered a keynote address on"Fighting the Drug Trade: Prospects for Cooperation between Europe and the Americas" on 4 June at a major conference. He outlined the role of UNDCP in fighting drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Beijing Hosts Drug Control Seminar

To assist countries and territories of Asia to cope with the increasing drug menace, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme organized a training seminar for drug control administrators in Asia from 17 to 21 June 1991 at Beijing.

The seminar aims at strengthening the capacity of participants in implementing drug control treaties in the countries and territories. It also provides an opportunity for drug control administrators from neighbouring states, facing similar problems, to exchange views and experiences in order to improve regional cooperation.

Attending were drug control administrators from Afghanistan, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Macao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The UNDCP provided secretariat services for the regional seminar, the third held in China since 1989.

Chemists Complete Lab Training Course

A fellow from Albania is seen withdrawing a sample for thin-layer chromatography analysis during the first 1991 training course on the latest techniques of identification of drugs of abuse held in the UNDCP laboratory at Vienna. Also participating in the three-month training course were chemists from Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zambia. The UNDCP training courses are designed to assist Member States to cope with increasing illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Held at least twice a year, the training courses cre intended for specialized staff of national narcotics laboratories, mainly from developing countries.

Vienna Youth Forum Selects Priorities

Over 150 participants from 42 States approved a package of measures to improve and strengthen channels of communication between the United Nations system and various youth non-governmental organizations.

The Forum recommended a list of priority issues for joint youth/NGO projects to be financed by the United Nations Youth Fund: environment; drug abuse; health; housing; juvenile delinquency; youth employment; freedom of association, culture, education and training, communications, population education, rural development and participation of youth in society, etc.

Recent reports on the extent of drug abuse indicated that young people are abusing drugs at a much earlier age than in the past. They often mix drugs with various substances, including alcohol, which is very dangerous.

Such a self-destructive behaviour severely affects the social functioning of young people, their intelligent and responsible decision-making and their ability and motivation to perform the complex tasks required in contemporary society.

Held from 29 to 31 May 1991, the Youth Forum was organized by the Vienna-based Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in cooperation with a number of international and regional youth bodies.

The UNDCP was represented at the youth forum.

Europe

Ministerial Conference Urges Increased Cooperation

A Declaration outlining ways of enhancing cooperation in matters of international drug control in Europe was adopted by the First Pan-European Ministerial Conference on Cooperation on Illicit Drug Abuse Problems, organized by the Pompidou Group from 9 to 10 May 1991 in Oslo.

The Declaration urged support for activities being undertaken by countries affected by traffciking on the Balkan route and the UNDCP; for strengthened focus on demand reduction efforts; for cooperation between the European Community Member States in eradicating illicit cultivation through increased assistance to producers with a view to reducing supply.

The text also called for support for the UNDCP and emphasized their need to evaluate drug control programmes.

Attending the meeting on behalf of the UNDCP was Bogumil Andrasevic, Assistant Executive Director for Programmes.

Calendar of Events

Government authorities, agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as research and other specialized associations are invited to forward to the Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, information on forthcoming meetings relating to international drug control. Basic data on international events will be published as appropriate in the UNDCP's Information Letter, which is distributed worldwide. This information is intended to assist entities within the United Nations system, as well as other concerned organizations, in scheduling meetings, exchanging results and enhancing co-ordination. The timely receipt of comprehensive information on planned events will be appreciated and greatly assist in the preparation of Calendars of Events.

1991

United Nations System

17-21 June	UNDCP: INCB Training Seminar for Drug Control Administrators in Asia.	Beijing
17-21 June	Economic and Social Council, resumed first regular session.	New York
20 June	Department of Public Information: Briefing to NGO's on International Drug Control.	New York
26 June	**International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**	
3-26 July	ECOSOC, second regular session.	Geneva
14-19 July	UNDCP: Training Workshop for Pharmacy Inspectors in West Africa.	Dakar
5-9 August	Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA): Intergovernmental Working Group on the Creation of an Effective International Crime and Justice Programme.	Vienna
2-6 September	UNDCP: Meeting of the INCB Advisory Expert Group.	Vienna
11-13 September	UNDCP: Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.	London
17 Sept.-	General Assembly, 46th session.	New York
7-24 October	UNDCP: International Narcotics Control Board, 50th session.	Vienna
8-12 October	UNDCP: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean.	Santa Cruz, Bolivia
24-25 October	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, second regular session.	New York
28 October - 1 November	UNDCP: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific.	Canberra, Australia
18-22 November	UNDCP: Meeting of the INCB Advisory Expert Group.	Vienna
18-22 November	UNDCP: Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, 28th session.	Teheran

Intergovernmental Organizations

17-28 June	Universal Postal Union: Training Course for Postal Security Officials from Caribbean and Asian Countries.	Washington, D.C.
24-26 June	Customs Co-operation Council, 77th/78th sessions.	Brussels
12-16 August	Commonwealth Secretariat: Oxford Conference on International and White Collar Crime.	Oxford, U.K.
19-23 August	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD): Training Seminar on the Control of Precursors and Essential Chemicals.	Quito
2-26 October	CICAD: 10th regular conference.	Washington, D.C.

Non-governmental Organizations

26-28 June	International Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention in Schools (ICDAPS): International Conference on Preventive Education against Drug Abuse in Schools.	Moscow
9 July	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
13 August	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
18-23 August	World Federation of Mental Health: 1991 World Congress.	Mexico City
1-5 September	International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency: 8th ICPA Congress.	Kuala Lumpur
1-7 September	World Association for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse: 5th International Congress on Drug Abuse.	Jerusalem
1-7 September	International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association: 32nd International Drug Conference.	Montreal, Canada
22-27 September	International Council on Alcohol and Addictions : 19th International Conference on the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence.	Montreal, Canada
22-27 September	World Federation of Therapeutic Communities: 14th World Conference "Drugs and Society to the Year 2000".	Montreal, Canada
7-11 October	ICDAPS: 3rd International Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention in Schools.	Brisbane, Australia
28 October-1 November	International Committee on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety: International Workshop on Drugs and Driving.	Padova, Italy
25-29 November	International Federation of Non-Government Organizations: 13th Annual Conference.	Manila

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